



Who Regulates Wastewater in Missouri?

Environmental Assistance Office fact sheet

11/2003

There are two agencies in Missouri that regulate the treatment and disposal of wastewater. The Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Natural Resources. This technical bulletin outlines the areas of responsibility of each agency.

Department of Health and Senior Services Regulates:

- Single family residential on-site wastewater systems
- On-site wastewater systems with domestic wastewater flows of less than 3,000 gallons per day that discharge into soil absorption systems

Department of Natural Resources Regulates:

- Domestic wastewater systems that discharge into streams, rivers, lakes, etc.
- Domestic wastewater systems with flows greater than 3,000 gallons per day that discharge into soil absorption systems
- Industrial wastewater flows
- No-discharge land application systems
- Wastewater residuals (septage, sludge, biosolids)
- Development lot size

The Department of Natural Resources must approve the plat of new subdivisions, mobile home parks and campgrounds if the development:

- uses on-site wastewater treatment, and
- has seven or more lots, and
- uses lot sizes less than five acres

New developments with lot sizes less than 40,000 square feet (.92 acres) must provide central sewers.

- Multifamily developments with seven or more family units discharging to soil absorption systems
- Residential cluster systems with seven or more homes discharging to a soil absorption system.

Examples of entities that can be regulated under Department of Health and Senior Services' rules include:

- Single family residences
- Multi-family residences (duplex, apartment)
- Schools
- Restaurants
- Churches
- Convenience stores
- Day-care centers



Examples of systems that can be regulated under Department of Health and Senior Services' rules include:

- Septic tank/soil absorption systems
- Sand filter/soil absorption systems
- Alternate media filter (foam, textile, peat)/soil absorption systems
- Aeration unit/soil absorption systems
 - Soil absorption systems include:
 - Absorption trenches
 - Low pressure pipes
 - Drip irrigations
 - Elevated mounds
- Constructed wetlands
- Lagoons – for a single family residence (serving only one home)

Examples of systems that can be regulated under Department of Natural Resources' regulations:

- Municipal wastewater treatment systems
 - City
 - County
 - Sewer district
 - Water district
- Industrial wastewater treatment systems
- Private utility wastewater systems (for-profit systems regulated by Public Service Commission)
- Private wastewater systems serving:
 - Subdivisions
 - Commercial
 - Schools

Permits:

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services:

Contact local county wastewater permitting authority

Call DHSS at 1-866-628-9891 for local contact information

Missouri Department of Natural Resources:

Contact regional office for required application forms

Call the department at 1-800-361-4827 for location of your regional office

For More Information Contact

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-3443

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